

Godmanchester Urban District Council.

REPORT

UPON THE SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

Borough of Godmanchester

FOR THE YEAR 1898,

BY

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

PRESENTED TO THE COUNCIL JANUARY 31st, 1899.

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**To the
Godmanchester Urban District Council.**

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my Report as to the Sanitary condition of your Borough during the year 1898.

Births and Deaths.

The births of 59 children have been registered during the year, 37 males and 22 females, an average of 28·6 per 1000 persons living.

The deaths of 30 persons have been registered, making an average of 16·6 per 1000 persons living. To these the death of one inhabitant of the Borough occurring in the Huntingdon Union Workhouse being added, and 4 in the County Hospital brings the total to 35, an average of 16·7 per 1000.

8 deaths occurred in children under 1 year of age, making an average infantile mortality of 135·5 per 1000, of these 2 deaths occurred from Bronchitis, 3 from debility from birth, 1 Whooping Cough, and 2 Convulsions.

Prevalence of Zymotic Disease.

One case of Erysipelas, and one of Diphtheria was notified during the year.

Scarlet Fever.

No case of Scarlet Fever has occurred.

3

Diphtheria.

One case of Diphtheria occurred during the year. In this case Insanitary surroundings existed in the back yard of the house, which were immediately corrected under the superintendence of your Surveyor.

Enteric Fever.

No case of Enteric Fever has been notified.

Erysipelas.

One case of Erysipelas occurred. The drain at the back of the house was not trapped, this was at once put right.

Diseases of Respiratory Organs.

Six cases of death from Bronchitis occurred, all these cases were in children with one exception, a case in a man 73 years of age. The average from death from these causes was 2·8 per 1000.

Phthisis.

Two fatal cases from Phthisis occurred during the year.

Cancer.

One case of Cancer proved fatal during the year.

Measles.

There was an outbreak of Measles during October. One case, which was removed to the County Hospital, proved fatal.

Diarrhœa.

No cases of Diarrhœa proved fatal during the year.

Small-Pox and Vaccination.

No cases of Small Pox have occurred in the Borough for some years.

Vaccination has been efficiently performed, and there seems no unwillingness on the part of Parents to have their children Vaccinated—I regret to say that Re-Vaccination is utterly neglected, and if a case of Small Pox were imported into the district there would be a serious probability of an extensive outbreak.

Means of Preventing Infectious Disease.

The question of an Isolation Hospital is engaging the attention of your Authority. I hope you will also provide some means of Isolating cases of Small Pox.

We have no disinfecting apparatus and disinfection is carried out as well as it can be under the circumstances, under the direction of the Surveyor. Disinfectants are supplied free of charge when required.

Water.

Water is obtained from shallow wells sunk in the gravel of the Ouse valley. The pollution of wells has materially decreased since the adoption of the ash pail closet system in the district, and the removal of privy vaults and deep ashpits.

In July last, owing to the continued drought, I caused notices to be circulated throughout the district urging persons to well boil their drinking water before use.

Seven samples of water were sent for analysis during the year, all of these were polluted. Two wells were re-constructed, one well was closed, and in the other cases a fresh supply was obtained.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The sewers on the whole are in a fairly good condition, and are well flushed with water from the river. I am glad to see you have erected some ventilating shafts in suitable situations.

The sewers discharge into two brooks, which coalesce at a distance of two or three hundred yards, and form one stream. A coke filter is provided at the out-let of the upper sewer, but there is no means of dealing with solid matter at the lower one. The brook runs for nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles before discharging into the Hemingford Head of the river, owing to the pail system being so very general, very little foecal matter passes through the sewers. I should imagine the amount of sewage after passing such a distance and exposed to sunlight and air, and the action of the weeds, can cause very little contamination when it reaches the river.

I would advise you to give your Surveyor power to improve the filter now in existence, also to provide one at the lower out-let of the sewer.

Removal of Refuse.

This is well carried out. Your Authority possessing your own horses, carts and men. All the refuse is carted on to a field a very considerable distance from the Borough proper, and far from any highway, the field being so situated that there is no chance of any water supply being affected.

Pollution of Streams and Water Courses.

All the streams and water courses in this neighbourhood are more or less liable to pollution, as concerns this district.—I have mentioned the matter in the paragraph relating to sewerage, and sewage disposal.

Premises Regulated by the Sanitary Authority.

Factories and Workshops.—The only factories in the district are a flour mill, and a jute bag manufactory recently started. These, as far as I know, are in a Sanitary condition, but are not inspected.

Schools.—The Schools are regularly inspected.

Slaughter Houses.—Regularly inspected, and their condition good.

Dairies, Cow Sheds and Milk Shops are not inspected unless there is some special reason for doing so. As a rule they are kept by cleanly persons, and are in a good condition. The cattle in this district have large tracts of common and meadow land to graze over, and are in a generally healthy condition.

Food Adulteration.

No samples of food have been analysed to my knowledge.

House Sanitation.

Your Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances keeps a watchful eye, and as he resides in the district is constantly on the look out for insanitary conditions surrounding the houses.

Several old houses have been pulled down and their places taken up with new ones. Old fashioned traps to the drains have been done away with and earthenware gully traps put in their place. This is being gradually and generally carried out.

The paving and gravelling of yards generally might be much improved, their bad condition was very evident as my annual inspection was made in showery weather.

Bye-Laws.

There are no Bye-laws, but several Resolutions of the Council relating to the construction of new dwelling-houses and other matters are in force. I understand your Authority is considering the question of Bye-laws.

Notification of Diseases Act was introduced in 1890.

Mortuary.

A public Mortuary has been provided.

General Sanitation.

I inspected the District systematically with your Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances, Mr. Mayfield, in December last, and found things generally in a good condition.

I have also made several special inspections from time to time as circumstances have arisen. I append Mr. Mayfield's report and tables.

Table A of deaths during the year 1898, and B of Population, Births, and new cases of Infectious Disease.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your faithful Servant,

HERBERT LUCAS,

Medical Officer of Health.

Sanitary Inspector's Report for the year 1898 :—

Number of houses and premises inspected	..	..	300
Number of re-inspections	..	..	103
Orders issued for sanitary amendments of houses and premises,	First Notices }		103
Houses, the drainage of which has been improved	..	103	
New earth closets provided	..	..	9
Privy vaults and ashpits emptied and filled in			14
Public Sewers :—West Street, Piper's Lane, and St. Ann's Lane Sewer have been much improved.			
House drains ventilated	..	..	4
Cowsheds inspected	..	..	7
Lodging-houses ditto	..	..	3
Slaughter houses ditto	..	..	4
Paving of yards of houses	..	..	40

K²¹¹. **TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, & OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS,**
coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the Year 1898, in the Godmanchester
(B.) *Urban District; classified according to DISEASES, AGES, AND LOCALITIES.*

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.				
	Last Census.	Estimated to middle of 1898.			Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	Enteric or Typhoid Fever.	Erysipelas.
GODMANCHESTER	2095	2095	59	Under 5 5 upwards.		1			1

State here whether “ Notification of Infectious Disease ” is compulsory in the District,—Yes. Since when ? 1890.

*Area and Population of the District or Division
to which this Return relates.*

Area in Acres - - - 4659

Population (last census) - - 2095

„ Estimated to middle } 2095
 of 1898.

Death Rates.	{	General	16.6	{	per 1000 Population esti- mated to middle of 1898.
		Infant (un- der 1 year of age)	- 135.5		{